

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD:CCH

APPROVED BY EA - MR. HABIB

EA - MR. EDMOND

S/S - JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EFIN, MY, US

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN MINISTER MUSA HITAM'S CALL ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4866

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB HELD WORKING BREAKFAST
MEETING SEPTEMBER 11 WITH MINISTER MUSA HITAM, AT WHICH
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDMOND AND MALAYSIAN CHARGE
KARIM WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF
SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 1 SPEECH, AND SAID THAT WE WERE
ANXIOUS TO RECEIVE GOM'S IDEAS REGARDING IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS. WE TRUSTED THAT THE
GOM WOULD TAKE A LEADING ROLE IN THE GROUP OF 77, AND WE
CONSIDERED ASEAN AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM BOTH FOR THE
DISCUSSION OF THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, AND FOR

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DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

3. MINISTER MUSA HITAM APPLAUDED THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH

AND SAID THAT IT WOULD RECEIVE CLOSE ATTENTION WITHIN THE GOM. HE SAID THAT FAROLAN STATEMENTS REGARDING ASEAN (JAKARTA 11071) DID NOT REFLECT GOM'S VIEW, AND AID WAS

CERTAINLY NOT A PREREQUISITE FOR US-ASEAN CONSULTATIONS. HE SAID HE WOULD RAISE THIS MATTER WITHIN GOM UPON HIS RETURN. HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF US SUPPORT FOR MALAYSIA PARTICIPATION IN THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER CONFERENCE, AND WAS TOLD BY EDMOND THAT WHILE WE WERE SYMPATHETIC TO MALAYSIA'S CANDIDACY, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM PARTICIPATE, THAT DECISION WOULD BE UP TO THE LDCS THEMSELVES. MUSA HITAM AFTER SOME THOUGHT AGREED THAT OUR ASSISTANCE IN PRESSING MALAYSIA'S CANDIDACY MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, ALTHOUGH HE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN IN THAT REGARD, REQUESTING ASSISTANCE WITH MALAYSIA'S CANDIDACY "WHERE AMERICAN LEVERAGE WOULD BE HELPFUL". HE SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE MATTER IN GREATER DETAIL IN HIS MEETING LATER THAT MORNING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS (SEPTTEL).

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB ASSURED MINISTER MUSA HITAM THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE SECURITY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING INITIALLY 17 MILLION DOLS IN FMS CREDITS FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. IT COULD NOT BE PROVIDED IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE THERE WAS NO BUDGET ITEM FOR MALAYSIA IN THE CURRENT MILITARY ASSISTANCE BILL. THEREFORE THE GOM SHOULD PAY CASH FOR ITS M-16S (WHOSE DELIVERY WE WOULD TRY TO EXPEDITE). THE CREDITS, WHEN THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE, SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT.

5. COMMENT: MINISTER MUSA HITAM WAS ARTICULATE AND MADE A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION HERE, INDICATING AN AWARENESS OF MALAYSIA'S SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. KARIM HAS TOLD US THAT MUSA HITAM AND DEPUTY FINANCE MINISTER CHONG WERE BOTH VERY PLEASED WITH THE COURSE OF THEIR DISCUSSIONS HERE. THEY ARE OF THE VIEW THAT A HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST

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HAS NOW BEGUN WHICH IS ITSELF OF IMPORTANCE TO US-GOM RELATIONS. KISSINGER

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